

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0005] as follows:

Another prior proposal shown in JP-A-HEI-8-99693 comprises an under cover having circular holes formed in a rear end portion thereof. Through the circular holes, a tool is inserted into an engine room for ~~loosening or~~ tightening or loosening screws used for connecting a cylinder head to a cylinder block of an engine. The holes are normally closed by rubber plugs. The under cover has a dish-like structure and may be formed by a mold assembly that can be opened and closed in a vertical direction. The holes in the under cover are formed by slide cores associated with the mold assembly so as to be movable in a direction perpendicular to the opening and closing direction of the mold assembly. Due to the presence of the slide cores, the mold assembly as a whole is relatively complicated in construction and expensive to manufacture. Another problem is that the size of the holes is as small as possible because the holes lower the rigidity of the under cover.

Please amend paragraph [0007] as follows:

According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided an outboard motor comprising an engine and a

cover structure defining an engine room in which the engine is installed. The cover structure comprises ~~an~~ a top cover defining an upper part of the engine room and ~~a~~ an under cover defining a lower part of the engine room, the top cover and the under cover being detachably connected together along horizontal edges thereof. The under cover comprises a pair of right and left cover members detachably connected together along opposing vertical edges thereof, an opening formed in at least one of the cover members for allowing access therethrough to the engine installed in the engine room, the opening being vertically spaced from the horizontal edge of the under cover and extending contiguously from the vertical edge of the at least one cover member, and a lid made of elastic material and attached to an outer surface of the under cover so as to close the opening of the under cover, the lid being elastically deformable to open and close the opening of the under cover.

Please amend paragraph [0010] as follows:

The cover members of the under cover are formed ~~from~~ of a synthetic resin material. The cover members can be easily produced by injection molding using a mold assembly that can be ~~opening~~ opened and ~~closing~~ closed in one direction. The opening of the under cover is contiguous from

the vertical edge of each cover member, so that the opening can be formed at the same time the cover member is formed by injection molding, without requiring a slide core movable in a direction perpendicular to the opening and closing direction of the mold assembly. The mold assembly is relatively simple in construction and can be manufactured at a relatively low cost.

Please amend paragraph [0017] as follows:

It is preferable that the cover members are formed ~~from~~ of a synthetic resin material, and the reinforcement frame is formed from a synthetic resin material and vibration-welded to each of the cover members.

Please amend paragraph [0039] as follows:

Each cylinder 2b, the piston 2c received in the cylinder 2b and the cylinder head 2e together form a combustion chamber 2k (FIG. 2). As shown in FIG. 2, the engine is a so-called "double overhead camshaft" engine with two camshafts mounted on the cylinder head 2e, one operating the inlet valves (not designated), the other the exhaust valves (not designated). The engine 2 has a spark plug unit 2p for each cylinder 2b. The spark plug unit 2p is located at substantially the center of the combustion chamber 2k and

equipped with a an integral ignition coil and a plug cap. The spark plug unit 2p with integral ignition coil is also called "distributor coil". The spark plug unit 2p may be replaced with a unit having a conventional spark plug and a plug cap in combination.

Please amend paragraph [0060] as follows:

The rectangular cutout recess 31h formed at the vertical edge 40a of the right cover member 31 so as to be elongated in a lateral outward direction (rightward direction in FIG. 4) is located between the upper horizontal reinforcement rib 31d and the intermediate horizontal reinforcement rib 31g of the right cover member 31. Similarly, the rectangular cutout recess 32h formed at the vertical edge 40b of the left cover member 32 so as to be elongated in a lateral outward direction (leftward direction in FIG. 4) is located between the upper horizontal reinforcement rib 32d and the intermediate horizontal reinforcement rib 32g of the left cover member 32. When the respective rear portions 31c, 32c of the right and left cover members 31 and 32 are joined together along the vertical edges 40a, 40b, the cutout recess 31h in the right cover member 31 and the cutout recess 32h in the left cover member 32 are disposed symmetrically with each other about the vertical

edges 40a, 40b and jointly form a horizontally elongated rectangular access opening 33 which intersects the vertical edges 40a, 40b of the cover members 31, 32. The access opening 33 has a size sufficiently large enough to allow passage of a tool that is used for attachment and detachment of the spark plug unit 2p (FIG. 2). The rear portion 31c, 32c of each cover member 31, 32, has two vertically spaced lid-mounting holes 50, 50 provided for a purpose of mounting a lid 50 (FIG. 6) to the under cover 30.

Please amend paragraph [0061] as follows:

Since the cutout recess 31h, ~~32~~ 32h is contiguous to the vertical edge (mating surface) 40a, 40b of each respective cover member 31, 32, a portion of the cover member 31, 32 including the cutout recess 31h, 32h can be formed without using a slide mold that can be opened and closed in a direction different from the opening and closing direction of the above-mentioned core-and-cavity mold assembly. In the case where the axis 2L (FIG. 2) of each cylinder 2b of the engine 2 is offset from, or extends obliquely to, the longitudinal centerline 1L of the outboard motor 1, the axis of the threaded mounting hole 2m provided for mounting of the spark plug unit 2p is also offset or inclined with respect to the longitudinal centerline 1L in the same manner as the axis

2L of the cylinder 2b. In this case, an opening for allowing access to the spark plug unit 2p may be formed by a single cutout recess (not shown) formed at the vertical edge 40a, 40b of only one of the right and left cover members 31, 32 and the vertical edge 40b, 40a of the other of the right and left cover members 31, 32 held in contact with the recessed vertical edge of the one cover member 31, 32 so as to close an open side of the cutout recess.

Please amend paragraph [0063] as follows:

As best shown in FIG. 6, at the rear end portion 30a of the under cover 30, the right and left cover members 31, 32 are connected together by three joint portions A, B and C with the vertical edges (mating surfaces) 40a, 40b of the cover members 31, 32. The horizontally elongated rectangular opening 33 is formed in an upper part of the rear end portion 30a and intersects the vertical edges (mating surfaces) 40a, 40b of the cover members 31, 32, the opening 33 being located between the uppermost joint portion A and the intermediate joint portion B. The rear end portion 30a of the under cover 30 has a flat lid-mounting land or seat 30b extending from the upper surfaces 31q, 32q of the cover members 31, 31 (i.e., the upper edge of the under cover 30) in a vertical downward direction beyond the lowermost joint portion C. The lid-

mounting seat ~~30~~ 30b has a side larger than the width of the rectangular access opening 33 so that the opening 33, the joint portions A-C, and the lid-mounting holes 50 are all formed within an area defined by a peripheral edge of the flat lid-mounting seat 30b. The lid-mounting seat 30b has a vertically elongated rectangular shape of the substantially the same size as the lid 51.

Please amend paragraph [0064] as follows:

The lid 51 is a generally vertically elongated rectangular plate-like member made of elastic material such as rubber or soft synthetic resin. The plate-like lid 51 has a flat rear surface 51a for intimate face-to-face contact with a flat outer surface of the lid-mounting seat 30b. The vertically elongated rectangular lid 51 has an upper part (first part) 51b and a lower part (second part) ~~52e~~ 51c connected together by a thin joint portion 53 formed by providing a transverse groove or recess in each of a front surface 51d and the rear surface 51a of the lid 51. The thin joint portion 53 thus formed serves as a hinge. The upper part 51b of the lid 51 has a lattice-like rectangular seal portion 52 formed on the rear surface 51a of the lid 51 has a for sealing engagement with a peripheral edge of the rectangular access opening 33 of the under cover 30.

The rectangular seal portion 52 has a peripheral groove 52a for snugly receiving therein the peripheral edge of the opening 33 to thereby enhance the sealing effect when the seal portion 52 is elastically fitted in the opening 33.

Please amend paragraph [0068] as follows:

With the lid 51 thus attached to the lid-mounting seat 30b, the opening 33 of the rear end 30a of the under cover 30 is closed by the lid 51 and kept watertight by means of the seal portion 52 of the lid 51, as shown in FIG. 9. The lid 51 also covers a portion of the vertical edges (mating surfaces) 40a, 40b extending longitudinally through the lid-mounting portion 30b. By thus attaching the lid 51 to the lid-mounting seat 30b, the rear end portion ~~30b~~ 30a of the under cover 30 including the opening 33 is kept watertight. This structure is particularly advantageous in terms of watertightness because the rear end portion ~~30b~~ 30a may be subjected to following sea while the outboard motor is operating to propel the boat.